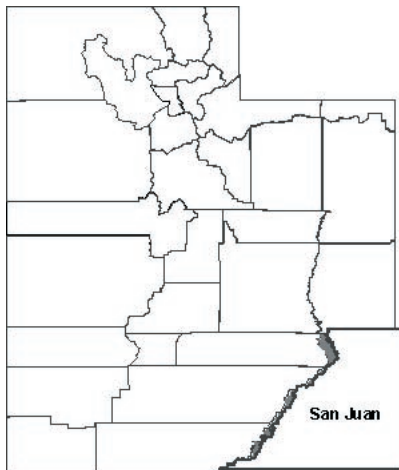


San Juan County

Local Planning Summary

Prepared for the:
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment**



**Utah Governor's Office
of Planning and Budget**
116 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 538-1027
www.planning.utah.gov

**December
2003**

***SAN JUAN COUNTY, GENERAL PLAN, 1996 &
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, TECHNICALLY FLAWED, A Review of the BLM Wilderness “Re-inventory in the State of Utah”***

Summary & Key Issues	San Juan County’s population is expected to grow an average of approximately 1% annually through 2030. However, with Canyonlands National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Bridges National Monument, and Rainbow Bridge National Monument, along with Monument Valley and Navajo Tribal Park all located within its boundaries, San Juan is expected to see an increase in visitation and economic development as it relates to outdoor recreation. “Ensuring that development decisions are sensitive to rural/agricultural interests” is a stated priority.
Historical Abstract	San Juan County is located in the extreme southeastern corner of Utah, commonly known as the Four Corners Area. Anciently, the area was inhabited by cliff dwellers known as the Anasazi. The Freemont, Ute, Pueblo, Paiute, Hopi, and Navajo Indians inhabited this area as gatherers in the last century. San Juan County has been a natural resource-based economy. Of special significance have been beef cattle production, uranium, other minerals and metals, oil, and gas. In 1991, less than 10% of the labor force remained employed in the extraction and processing sectors.
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism, travel and outdoor recreation have become a significant part of San Juan County’s economic base, with one National Park, one National Recreation area and three National Monuments in the County, (p.63). • San Juan County encourages private sector development of recreational facilities and services, (p.9). • Mining at the present time and into the foreseeable future will continue to be non-existent, (p.64). • Government (30.32%) and Service (18.02%) oriented jobs currently make up roughly 50% of local industry.
Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the position of San Juan County that “responsible environmentalism” requires that the social and economic environment of the communities most impacted by public land use decisions be included in environmental review.
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County residents support population growth and resources development that maintains the rural lifestyle, coupled with the strong family values and quality environment that has been a large part of their past. • 55.69 % of the County’s population is comprised of Native American and Alaska Native and 40.77 % of the population is Caucasian.

Tribal-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Utah Strip of the Navajo Reservation encompasses one quarter of the San Juan County land base. There is also Ute land located on White Mesa. Cooperation between the Tribes and the County is necessary to adequately and effectively address concerns and issues, (p.6). • Mutual interests, such as rights-of-way, health care, severance taxes, education, employment, law enforcement and tourism are being discussed in an effort to gain a better understanding and foster a better working relationship with tribal governments, (p.6).
Forest-Specific Issues	<p>Residents wish to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Forest Service to develop cross country skiing and biking opportunities. • Work closely with the BLM and Forest Service to develop off road trails for ATV and bike use. • Work closely with the BLM and Forest Service to develop/upgrade camping opportunities in and around National Parks, Monuments and Recreation area, (p.30)
Public Lands Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service manage over 61% of the land in San Juan County. • Another 23% of the land base is Navajo Reservation land and 8% is managed by the State of Utah. • In total, only 8% of the land base within San Juan County is private, (p.5) • San Juan County supports a “no net increase” of public lands within its boundaries, (p.23). • San Juan County submitted a report in response and to refute the BLM’s “re-inventory” and analysis of proposed wilderness in San Juan County (p.3).
Regional Demographic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County residents believe that responsible natural resource use and development should be included as a strong part of the growth of San Juan County. Residents and local government believe that economic growth is important, but also believe that development should be compatible with and complement the maintenance of a rural lifestyle, (p. 8). • Based on visitation statistics, San Juan County is fast becoming a destination point (p. 9). • There is a shortage of housing throughout the county, especially for low-income families (p. 38). • Housing on the Reservation is generally not available or difficult to obtain and develop (p. 38).

***SAN JUAN COUNTY VISITOR SERVICES
2003 SALES & MARKETING PLAN***

Summary & Key Issues	Travel-related jobs accounted for more than a fifth of total non-farm employment in ten Utah counties. The San Juan County Visitor Services Plan recommends that the County's marketing efforts incorporate the moniker: "Utah's Canyon Country!" The Plan is broken down by community areas, and assesses their strengths and attractions. The County would like to retain their rural atmosphere, and is interested in an ongoing partnership with public lands managers.
Historical Abstract	"San Juan County is blessed with an abundance of world-class natural and cultural attractions. Complementary attractions such as museums provide visitors with additional insight into the landscape. Recreational activities enable visitors to fully experience the wonders of San Juan County. The continued development of special events and the interpretation of our area's history will draw more tourists and enhance the visitor experience of San Juan County. "
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Plan presents a "Situation Analysis" of the national, state, and regional trends related to the economy generally, (p.47).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Only Millard, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties experienced any strong growth in their transient room tax revenue between 2000 and 2001, (p.49).• "Travel and tourism ranks among Utah's five most important economic activities", (p.82).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Travel-related jobs accounted for more than a fifth of total non-farm employment in ten Utah counties, including San Juan County.• "Visitation to national parks, monuments, and recreation areas has a profound impact on tourism to Southern Utah", (p.82).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Visitation statistics are included in pages 82-83.

Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Competitive Analysis” section notes that there are many natural attractions, but not many man-made attractions (i.e. golf courses), (p.57-81).
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Strength] - “San Juan County is blessed with clean air, small towns, rural settings, a small population, and low crime”, (p.51). [Weakness] – “...challenges include cultural, ethnic, and religious differences, education level of the workforce, and lack of jobs”, (p.51).
Public Lands Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “We will solicit and encourage partnerships with the County’s communities and businesses; state and federal land management agencies; and regional tourism agencies”, (p.54).
Regional Demographic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Concerning the affects of 9/11] “We believe international visitation will ultimately rebound”, (p.53). A survey of visitors, conducted in 2001, found that regional visitors came from 1) Utah, 2) Colorado, 3) Arizona, and 4) New Mexico. National visitors come from 1) California, 2) Texas, 3) Washington, 4) New York, 5) Illinois, and 6) Wisconsin, (p.87). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 1997 survey of demographics found that the average age was 51, the daily per capita spending was \$45.00, and the length of stay was four nights.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY of VEGETATION and STREAM CHANNEL CHANGES in SAN JUAN COUNTY, 2000

Summary & Key Issues

The purpose of this study is to evaluate ecological changes throughout San Juan County by comparing historic photographs dating from the late 1800s to as recent as the 1970s with contemporary photographs. The study concludes that rangelands are in the best condition they have been in this century; and that on average they are improving. Credit for this is given to both livestock operators and land managers. This document supports the County's interest in maintaining multiple-use and sustained yield management.

Historical Abstract

This publication was “produced in response to the growing perception that grazing by domestic animals continues to cause widespread damage on federal rangelands.” The method used to argue that it does not is with repeat photography. Opponents of grazing have used photographs of areas where livestock naturally congregates (i.e. watering facilities, fence lines, and along traditional trails). Photographs of random areas in the County were taken at different dates (between 1875 and 1977) and in random areas. These images were compared with contemporary photographs in the same locations.

Economic Values

- “Prominent range scientists believe that American rangelands are in the best condition they have been in this century; and that on average they are improving”, (p.9).
 - Most believe that livestock operators, federal land managers, and range management professionals deserve recognition and credit for a record of successful range management.

Environmental Values

- “From analyzing the photographic history of San Juan County through matched repeat photographs with historic scenes, four general trends are evident:
- “Vegetation conditions have greatly improved.
 - “Soils are much more stable as a result of the presence of protecting vegetation.
 - “Habitats that display stable state characteristics have shown little change due to low potential for increased vegetation cover or increased plant diversity.
 - “Exotic plants are becoming more common in most plant communities,” (p.7).

